PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

National Executive Discusses the Important Subjects Coming Before Congress.

CURRENCY IS TAKEN UP FIRST.

He Would Demand Gold in Exchange for Greenbacks and Approves Gage's Bank Reform.

Not in Favor of Any Intervention in Cuba at This Time—Approves the Annexation of Hawaii—Remarks on Silver Commission—Needs of the Navy—Extension of Our Foreign Trade—Preservation of the Seals—International Arbitration.

Washington, Dec. 6.—President McKinley's first message to the congress of the United States is as follows:

To the Senate and House of Representatives: It gives me pleasure to extend greeting to the Fifty-fifth congress, assembled at the seat of government, with many of whose senators and representatives I have been associated in the legislative service. Their meeting occurs under felicitous conditions, justifying sincere congratulation and calling for our grateful acknowledgement to a beneficient Providence which has so signally blessed and prospered us as a nation. Peace and good will with all the nations of the earth continue unbroken. A matter of genuine satisfaction is the growing feeling of fraternal regard and unification of all sections of our country, the incompleteness of which has too long delayed realization of the highest blessings of the Union. The spirit of patriotism is universal and is ever increasing in fervor.

The public questions which now most engross us are lifted far above either partisanship, prejudice or former sectional differences. They affect every part of our common country alike, and permit of no division on ancient lines. Questions of foreign policy, of revenue, the soundness of the currency, the inviolability of national obligations, the improvement of the public service, appeal to the individual conscience of every earnest citizen, to whatever party he belongs or in whatever section of the country he may reside. The extra session of this congress, which closed during July last, enacted important legislation, and while its full effect has not yet been realized, what it has already accomplished assures us of its timeliness and wisdom. To test its permanent value further time will be required, and the people, satisfied with its operation and results thus far, are in no mind to withhold from it a fair trial.

CURRENCY THE MAIN QUESTION.

Calls Attention to What We Have Done and What Is To Be Done.

Tariff legislation having been settled by the extra session of congress the question next pressing for consideration is that of the currency.

The work of putting our finances upon a sound basis, difficult as it may seem, will appear easier when we recall the financial operations of the government since 1866. [The president then gives a review of the financial operation of the government since the war.] The brief review of what was accomplished from the close of the war to 1893 makes unnecessary comment and groundless any distrust as to the future of our financial ability or soundness; while the situation from 1893 to 1897 must admonish congress of the immediate necessity of so legislating as to make the return of the conditions then prevailing impossible. There are many plans proposed as a remedy for the evil. Before we can find the true remedy we must appreciate the real evil. It is not that our currency of every kind is not good, for every dollar of it is good; good because the government's pledge will not be broken. However, the guaranty of our purpose to keep the pledge will be best shown by advancing towards its fulfillment.

The evil of the present system is found in the great cost to the government of maintaining the parity of our different forms of money; that is, keeping all of them at par with gold. We surely cannot longer be heedless of the burden this imposes upon the people even under fairly prosperous conditions, while the past four years have demonstrated that it is not only an expensive charge upon the government but a dangerous menace of the national credit. It is manifest that we must devise some plan to protect the government against bond issue for repeated redemptions. We must either curtail the opportunity for speculation, made easy by the multiplied redemptions of our demand obligations, or increase the gold reserve for their redemption.

We have $900,000,000 of currency which the government by solemn enactment has undertaken to keep at par with gold. Nobody is obliged to redeem in gold but the government. The banks are not required to redeem in gold. The government is obliged to keep equal with gold all its outstanding currency and gold obligations, while its receipts are not required to be paid in gold. They are paid in every kind of money but gold, and the only means by which the government can with certainty get gold is by borrowing. It can get it in no other way when it most needs it. The government without any fixed gold revenue is pledged to maintain gold redemption, which it has steadily and faithfully done and which under the authority now given it will continue to do so.

The law which requires the government after having redeemed its United States notes to pay them out again as current funds demands a constant replenishment of the gold reserve. This is especially so in times of business panic and when the revenues are insufficient to meet the expenses of the government. At such time the government has no other way to supply its deficit and maintain redemption, but through the increase of its bonded debt, as during the administration of my predecessor, when $262,315,400 of 4½ per cent. bonds were issued and sold and the proceeds used to pay the expenses of the government in excess of the revenues and sustain the gold reserve. While it is true that the greater part of the proceeds of these bonds were used to supply deficient revenues, a considerable portion was required to maintain the gold reserve. Without revenues equal to our expenses there would be no deficit requiring the issuance of bonds. But if the gold reserve falls below $100,000,000 how will it be replenished except by selling more bonds? Is there any other way practicable under existing law?

SERIOUS QUESTION PROPOUNDED.

Shall We Continue the Present Policy?—Recommendation as to Greenbacks.

The serious question then is, shall we continue the policy that has been pursued in the past; that is, when the gold reserve reaches the point of danger, issue more bonds and supply the needed gold, or shall we provide other means to prevent these recurring drains upon the gold reserve? If no further legislation is had and the policy of selling bonds is to be continued, then congress should give the secretary of the treasury authority to sell bonds at long or short periods bearing a less rate of interest than is now authorized by law.

I earnestly recommend, as soon as the receipts of the government are quite sufficient to pay all the expenses of the government, that when any of the United States notes are presented for redemption in gold and are redeemed in gold such notes shall be kept and set apart, and only paid out in exchange for gold. This is an obvious duty. If the holder of the United States note prefers the gold and gets it from the government he should not receive back from a United States note without paying gold in exchange for it. The reason for this is made all the more apparent when the government issues an interest-bearing debt to provide gold for the redemption of United States notes—a non-interest bearing debt. Surely it should not pay them out again except on demand and for gold. If they are put out in any other way they may return again to be followed by another bond issue to redeem them—another interest-bearing debt to redeem a non-interest bearing debt.

In my view it is of the utmost importance that the government should be relieved from the burden of providing all the gold required for exchanges and export. This responsibility is alone borne by the government without any of the usual and necessary banking powers to help itself. The banks do not feel the strain of gold redemption. The whole strain rests upon the government, and the size of the gold reserve in the treasury has come to be, with or without reason, the signal of danger or of security. This ought to be stopped. If we are to have an era of prosperity in the country with sufficient receipts for the expenses of the government we may feel no immediate embarrassment from our present currency; but the danger still exists, and will be ever present menacing us so long as the existing system continues. And, besides, it is in times of adequate revenues and business tranquility that the government should prepare for the worst. We can not avoid without serious consequence the wise consideration and prompt solution of this question.

The secretary of the treasury has outlined a plan in great detail for the purpose of removing the threatened recurrence of a depleted gold reserve and save us from future embarrassment on that account. To this plan I invite your careful consideration. I concur with the secretary of the treasury in his recommendation that national banks be allowed to issue notes to the fact value of the bonds which they have deposited for circulation, and that the tax on circulating notes secured by deposit of such bonds be reduced to one-half of 1 per cent. per annum. I also join him in recommending that authority be given for the establishment of national banks with a minimum capital of $25,000. This will enable the smaller villages and agricultural regions of the country to be supplied with currency to meet their needs.

I recommend that the issue of national bank notes be restricted to the denomination of $10 and upwards. If the suggestions I have herein made shall have the approval of congress, then I would recommend that national banks be required to redeem their notes in gold.

CONSIDERS THE CUBAN PROBLEM.

Tells the Story of the Island's Years of Unrest and Discontent.

The most important problem with which this government is now called upon to deal pertaining to its foreign relations concerns its duty toward Spain and the Cuban insurrection. Problems and conditions more or less in common with those now existing have confronted this government at various times in the past. The story of Cuba for many years has been one of unrest; growing discontent; an effort toward a larger enjoyment of liberty and self-control; of organized resistance to the mother country; of depression after distress and warfare, and of ineffectual settlement to be followed by renewed revolt. For no enduring period since the enfranchisement of the continental possessions of Spain in the western continent has the condition of Cuba or the policy of Spain toward Cuba not caused concern to the United States.

The prospect from time to time that the weakness of Spain's hold upon the island and the political vicissitudes and embarrassments of the home government might lead to the transfer of Cuba to a continental power called forth, between 1823 and 1860, various emphatic declarations of the policy of the United States to permit no disturbance of Cuba's connection with Spain unless in the direction of independence or acquisition by us through purchase, nor has there been any change of this declared policy since upon the part of the government. The revolution which began in 1868 lasted for ten years, despite the strenuous efforts of the successive peninsular governments to suppress it. Then as now the government of the United States testified its grave concern and offered its aid to put an end to bloodshed in Cuba. The overtures made by General Grant were refused and the war dragged on, entailing great loss of life and treasure and increased injury to American interests, besides throwing enhanced burdens of neutrality on the government.

In 1878 peace was brought about by the truce of Zanjon, obtained by negotiations between the Spanish commander, Martinez de Campos, and the insurgent leaders. The present insurrection broke out in February, 1895. It is not my purpose at this time to recall its remarkable increase or to characterise its tenacious resistance against the enormous forces massed against it by Spain. The revolt and the efforts to subdue it have carried destruction to every quarter of the island, developing wide proportions and defying the efforts of Spain for its suppression. The civilized code of war has been disregarded; no less so by the Spaniards than by the Cubans. The existing conditions cannot but fill this government and the American people with the gravest apprehension. There is no desire on the part of our people to profit by the misfortunes of Spain. We have only the desire to see the Cubans prosperous and contented, enjoying that measure of self-control which is the inalienable right of man, protected in their right to reap the benefit of the exhaustless treasures of their country.

CONCENTRATION IS A FAILURE.

Was Not Civilized Warfare—Instructions Given to Minister Woodford.

The offer made by my predecessor in April, 1896, tendering the friendly offices of this government failed. Any mediation on our part was not accepted. In brief the answer said: "There is no effectual way to pacify Cuba unless it begins with the actual submission of the rebels to the mother country." Then only could Spain act in the premised direction of her own motion and after her own plans. The cruel policy of concentration was initiated Feb. 16, 1896. The productive districts controlled by the Spanish armies were depopulated. The agricultural inhabitants were herded in and about the garrison towns, their lands laid waste and their dwellings destroyed. This policy the late cabinet of Spain justified as a necessary measure of war and as a means of cutting off supplies from the insurgents. It has utterly failed as a war measure. It was not civilized warfare. It was extermination. Against this abuse of the rights of war I have felt constrained on repeated occasions to enter the firm and earnest protest of this government. * * * I felt it my first duty to make instant demand for the release or speedy trial of all American citizens under arrest. * * *

The instructions given to our new minister to Spain before his departure for his post directed him to impress upon that government the sincere wish of the United States to lend its aid toward the ending of the war in Cuba by reaching a peaceful and lasting result, just and honorable alike to Spain and to the Cuban people. Those instructions recited the character and duration of the contest, the widespread losses it entails, the burdens and restraints it imposes upon us, with constant disturbance of national interests, and the injury resulting from an indefinite continuance of this state of things. It was stated that at this juncture our government was constrained to seriously inquire if the time was not ripe when Spain of her own volition, moved by her own interests and every sentiment of humanity, should put a stop to this destructive war and make proposals of settlement honorable to herself and just to her Cuban colony. It was urged that as a neighboring nation, with large interests in Cuba, we could be required to wait only a reasonable time for the mother country to establish its authority and restore order within the borders of the island; that we could not contemplate as indefinite period for the accomplishment of this result. No solution was proposed to which the slightest idea of humiliation to Spain could attach and indeed precise proposals were withheld to avoid embarrassment to that government.

All that was asked or expected was that some safe way might be speedily provided and permanent peace restored. It so chanced that the consideration of this offer, addressed to the same Spanish administration which had declined the tenders of my predecessor and which for more than two years had poured men and treasure into Cuba in the fruitless effort to suppress the revolt, fell to others. Between the departure of General Woodford, the new envoy, and his arrival in Spain, the statesmen who had shaped the policy of his country fell by the hand of an assassin, and although the cabinet of the late premier still held office and received from our envoy the proposals he bore that cabinet gave place within a few days thereafter to a new administration under the leadership of Sagasta.

REPLY THAT SAGASTA MADE.

Acknowledges Our Interest and Outlines a New Policy.

The reply to our note was received on the 23d day of October. It is in the direction of a better understanding. It appreciates the friendly purposes of this government. It admits that our country is deeply affected by the war in Cuba and that its desires for peace are just It declares that the present Spanish government is bound by every consideration to a change of policy that should satisfy the United States and pacify Cuba within a reasonable time. To this end Spain has decided to put into effect the political reforms heretofore advocated by the present premier, without halting for any consideration in the path which in its judgment leads to peace. The military operations, it is said, will continue, but will be humane and conducted with all regard for private rights, being accompanied by political action leading to the autonomy of Cuba while guarding Spanish sovereignty. This, it is claimed, will result in investing Cuba with a distinct personality; the island to be governed by an executive and by a local council or chamber, reserving to Spain the control of the foreign relations, the army and navy and the judicial administration. To accomplish this the present government proposes to modify existing legislation by decrees, leaving the Spanish cortes, with the aid of Cuban senators and deputies, to solve the economic problem and properly distribute the existing debt.

In the absence of a declaration of the measures that this government proposes to take in carrying out its proffer of good offices it suggests that Spain be left free to conduct military operations and grant political reforms; while the United States, for its part, shall enforce its neutral obligations and cut off the assistance which it is asserted the insurgents receive from this country. The supposition of an indefinite prolongation of the war is denied. It is asserted that the western provinces are already well nigh reclaimed; that the planting of cane and tobacco therein has been resumed, and that by force of arms and new and ample reforms very early and complete pacification is hoped for. The immediate amelioration of existing conditions under the new administration of Cuban affairs is predicted, and therewithal the disturbance and all occasion for any change of attitude on the part of the United States.

Discussion of the question of the international duties and responsibilities of the United States as Spain understands them is presented with an apparent disposition to charge us with failure in this regard. This charge is without any basis in fact. It could not have been made if Spain had been cognizant of the constant efforts this government has made at the cost of millions and by the employment of the administrative machinery of the nation at command to perform its full duty according to the law of nations. That it has successfully prevented the departure of a single military expedition or armed vessel from our shores in violation of our laws would seem to be a sufficient answer. But of this aspect of the Spanish note it is not necessary to speak further now. Firm in the conviction of a wholly performed obligation, due response to this charge has been made in diplomatic course.

Throughout all these horrors and dangers to our own peace this government has never broken over or in any way abrogated its sovereign prerogative of reserving to itself the determination of its policy and course according to its own high sense of right and in consonance with the dearest interests and convictions of our own people, should the prolongation of the war so demand.

MEASURES AS YET UNTRIED.

Refers to Congressional Actions and Recognition of Cuban Belligerency.

Of the untried measures there remain only: Recognition of the insurgents as belligerents; recognition of the independence of Cuba; neutral intervention to end the war by imposing a rational compromise between the insurgents, and intervention in favor of one or the other party. I speak not of forcible annexation, for that cannot be thought of. That by our code of morality would be criminal aggression. Recognition of the belligerency of the Cuban insurgents has often been canvassed as a possible if not inevitable step, both in regard to the previous ten years' struggle and during the present war. I am not unmindful that the two houses of congress in the spring of 1896 expressed the opinion by concurrent resolution that a condition of public war existed requiring or justifying the recognition of the state of belligerency in Cuba, and during the extra session the senate voted a joint resolution of like import, which, however, was not brought to a vote in the house of representatives.

In the presence of these significant expressions of the sentiment of the legislative branch it behooves the executive to soberly consider the conditions under which so important a measure must needs rest for justification. It is to be seriously considered whether the Cuban insurrection possesses beyond dispute the attributes of statehood which alone can demand the recognition of belligerency in its favor. Possession, in short, of the essential qualifications of sovereignty by the insurgents and the conduct of the war by them according to the received code of war are no less important factors toward the determination of the problem of belligerency than are the influences and consequences of the struggle upon the internal polity of the recognizing state.

[The president then quotes approvingly the utterances of President Grant in his message of Dec. 7, 1875, when he said that recognition of the independence of Cuba was indefensible at that time and that belligerence was a fact that the Cuban situation then did not present.]

Turning to the practical aspects of a recognition of belligerency and reviewing its inconveniences and positive dangers still further pertinent considerations appear. In the code of nations there is no such thing as a naked recognition of belligerency unaccompanied by the assumption of international neutrality. Such recognition without more will not confer upon either party to a domestic conflict a status not heretofore actually possessed, or affect the relation of either party to other states. The act of recognition usually takes the form of a solemn proclamation of neutrality which recites the de facto condition of belligerency as its motive. It announces a domestic law of neutrality in the declaring state. It assumes the international obligations of a neutral in the presence of a public state of war. It warns all citizens and others within the jurisdiction of the proclaimant that they violate those righteous obligations at their own peril, and cannot expect to be shielded from the consequences.

The right of visit and search on the seas and seizures of vessels and cargoes as contraband of war and good prize under admiralty law must under international law be admitted as a legitimate consequence of a proclamation of belligerency. While according the equal belligerent rights defined by public law to each party in our ports, disfavors would be imposed on both, which, while nominally equal, would weigh heavily in behalf of Spain herself. Possessing a navy and controlling the ports of Cuba her maritime rights could be asserted not only for the military investment of the island but up to the margin of our own territorial waters, and a condition of things would exist for which the Cubans within their own domain could not hope to create a parallel, while its creation through aid or sympathy from within our domain would be even more impossible than now, with the additional obligations of international neutrality we would perforce assume.

The enforcement of this enlarged and onerous code of neutrality would only be influential within our own jurisdiction by land and sea and applicable by our own instrumentalities. It could impart to the United States no jurisdiction between Spain and the insurgents. It would give the United States no right of intervention to enforce the conduct of the strife within the paramount authority of Spain according to the international code of war. For these reasons I regard the recognition of the belligerency of the Cuban insurgents as now unwise and therefore inadmissable. Should that step hereafter be deemed wise as a measure of right and duty the executive will take it.

AS TO HUMANITARIAN GROUND.

Reasons Advanced Why the United States Should Hold Its Hand.

Intervention upon humanitarian grounds has been frequently suggested, and has not failed to receive my most anxious and earnest consideration. But should such a step be now taken when it is apparent that a hopeful change has supervened in the policy of Spain toward Cuba? A new government has taken office in the mother country. It is pledged in advance to the declaration that all the effort in the world cannot suffice to maintain peace in Cuba by the bayonet; that vague promises of reform after subjugation afford no solution of the insular problem; that with a substitution of commanders must come a change of the past system of warfare for one in harmony with a new policy which shall no longer aim to drive the Cubans to the "horrible alternative of taking to the thicket or succumbing in misery;" that reforms must be instituted in accordance with the needs and circumstances of the time, and that these reforms, while designed to give full autonomy to the colony and to create a virtual entity and self-controlled administration, shall yet assert and affirm the sovereignty of Spain by a just distribution of powers and burdens upon a basis of mutual interest untainted by methods of selfish expediency.

The first acts of the new government lie in these honorable paths. The policy of cruel rapine and extermination that so long shocked the universal sentiment of humanity has been reversed. Under the new military commander a broad clemency is proffered. Measures save already been set on foot to relieve the horrors of starvation. The power of the Spanish armies, it is asserted, is to be used not to spread ruin and desolation, but to protect the resumption of peaceful agricultural pursuits and productive industries. That past methods are futile to force a peace by subjugation is freely admitted, and that ruin without conciliation must inevitably fail to win for Spain the fidelity of a contented dependency.

Decrees in application of the foreshadowed reforms have already been promulgated. The full text of these decrees has not been received, but as furnished in a telegraphic summary from our minister are: [The president here summarizes the scheme of autonomy, which has been already widely printed in the press.] That the government of Sagasta has entered upon a course from which recession with honor is impossible can hardly be questioned; that in the few weeks that it has existed it has made earnest of the sincerity of its professions is undeniable. I shall not impugn its sincerity, nor should impatience be suffered to embarrass it in the task it has undertaken. It is honestly due to Spain and to our friendly relations with Spain that she should be given a reasonable chance to realize her expectations and to prove the asserted efficacy of the new order of things to which she stands irrevocably committed. She has recalled the commander whose brutal orders inflamed the American mind and shocked the civilized world. She has modified the horrible order of concentration, and has undertaken to care for the helpless and permit those who desire to resume the cultivation of their fields to do so, and assures of them of the protection of the Spanish government in their lawful occupations. She has just released the Competitor prisoners heretofore sentenced to death, and who have been the subject of repeated diplomatic correspondence during both this and the preceding administration.

Not a single American citizen is now in arrest or confinement in Cuba of whom this government has any knowledge. The near future will demonstrate whether the indispensable condition of a righteous peace, just alike to the Cubans and to Spain, as well as equitable to our interests so intimately involved

(CONTINUED ON SIXTH PAGE.)

MRS. LYNESS ESCAPES

The Hospital and a Fearful Operation.

Hospitals in great cities are sad places to visit. Three-fourths of the patients lying on those snow-white beds are women and girls.

Why should this be the case?

Because they have neglected themselves! Women as a rule attach too little importance to first symptoms of a certain kind. If they have toothache, they will try to save the tooth, though many leave even this too late. They comfort themselves with the thought that they can replace their teeth; but they cannot replace their internal organs!

Every one of those patients in the hospital beds had plenty of warnings in the form of bearing-down feelings, pain at the right or the left of the womb, nervous dyspepsia, pain in the small of the back, the "blues," or some other unnatural symptom, but they did not heed them.

Don't drag along at home or in the shop until you are finally obliged to go to the hospital and submit to horrible examinations and operations! Build up the female organs. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound will save you from the hospital. It will put new life into you.

The following letter shows how Mrs. Lyness escaped the hospital and a fearful operation. Her experience should encourage other women to follow her example. She says to Mrs. Pinkham:

"I thank you very much for what you have done for me, for I had given up in despair. Last February, I had a miscarriage caused by overwork. It affected my heart, caused me to have sinking spells three to four a day, lasting sometimes half a day. I could not be left alone. I flowed constantly. The doctor called twice a day for a week, and once a day for four weeks, then three or four times a week for four months. Finally he said I would have to undergo an operation. Then I commenced taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and after one week I began to recover and steadily improved until I was cured completely. By taking the Pinkham medicine, I avoided an operation which the doctor said I would certainly have to undergo. I am gaining every day and will cheerfully tell anyone what you have done for me."—Mrs. Thos. Lyness, 10 Frederick St., Rochester, N. Y.

MESSAGE THE EVENT.

Hearing the Reading Thereof Was All the Business Congress Did Yesterday.

LARGE CROWD AT THE OPENING,

Both in the Senate and the House—Chicago Statesman Presents a Postal Savings Bank Bill—Representative Bellew Badly Hurt—President Leaves for Canton—Secretary Alger Reprimands the Court Martial That Tried Lovering, as Well as the Captain—Senate Restaurant Is Dry.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The opening of the regular session in the house passed without unusual incident of any character. The formalities attending the inauguration of the session are dry, and except as a spectacle hardly repaid the crowds which thronged the public and private galleries. Dingley, Bailey and Grosvenor enjoyed the honor of being appointed to wait upon the president, whose message was the event of the day. Its reading was long and tedious, but it was followed with close attention. There was no demonstration until the reading was concluded, when the Republicans joined in a hearty expression of approval. Immediately after the reading of the message the house adjourned out of respect to the memory of Senator George, of Mississippi, and Representative Wright, of Massachusetts, who had died during the recess.

Savings Bank Bill Introduced.

Probably about the most generally interesting measure introduced in the house was one for the establishment and regulation of a postal savings bank system, introduced by Lorimer of Illinois. Under his scheme money order offices selected by the postmaster general are to be made branch postal savings banks with an office in the department to be called the central bank. Any person may become a depositor under this act, including married women, and minors above 12 years of age. Depositors are limited to $1 and its multiples, and not exceeding $300 each, and deposits accumulating above $1,000 will not draw interest. Postal savings stamps and cards of the denomination of 5 and 10 cents are to be sold. Interest is to be at the rate of 2 per cent. a year, to be added to the principal on June 30 of each year. The secretary of the treasury under this bill is required to invest in interest-bearing bonds of the United States, or whose principal is guaranteed by the United States, or in state bonds and bonds of municipalities and counties under stated restrictions. Deposits will not be liable to seizure or detention under any legal process.

Proceedings in the Senate.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The attendance upon the session of the senate yesterday, both on the floor and in the galleries, was notably large, despite the well understood fact that little business beyond the presentation of the president's message and the proceedings incident thereto would be transacted. Prior to the convening of the senate the members passed half an hour in exchanging greetings. Hanna, who has been ill for a week, was given a cordial reception by his Republican colleagues. Wolcott of Colorado, one of the members of the international monetary commission, was also given a warm greeting. When the senate convened after the usual opening day recess, Money, the new senator from Mississippi, entered the chamber, but the oath of office was not administered to him during the session. The reception and reading of the president's message was the only feature of the day.

REPRIMANDS THE COURT MARTIAL.

Which Was Not Hard Enough on Lovering to Suit Gen. Alger.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Secretary Alger yesterday made public the reprimand administered to Captain Lovering by sentence of court martial, as follows: "By order of the president the proceedings, findings and sentence in the case of Captain Leonard A. Lovering, Fourth infantry, are approved. It is, however, disappointing that an offense so grave and as an example so far-reaching as this should have been visited with so light a penalty. There is no question but that Private Hammond deserved punishment for his conduct, but he should have received it in a lawful way. The military laws governing the army are explicit. They prescribe the duties of officers and enlisted men, with the penalties for their violation. Under them both have rights and obligations.

"When, therefore, an officer with the intelligence and experience with which Captain Lovering is credited not only violates these laws but exhibits such a lack of humanity as is shown in this case he should receive a more severe sentence than a mere reprimand. Committing such acts degrades the officer more than the soldier he punishes, and shows unfitness for the care and command of men. Under excitement men frequently do things which in cooler moments they recall with sorrow and regret, but this case is aggravated by the fact that after weeks of deliberation this officer evinces no regret for his wrongful acts."

BELDEN HAS A BAD FALL.

Veteran New York Member Plunges Down a Stairway Head First.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Representative Belden, of New York, one of the veteran members of the house, was seriously injured yesterday afternoon by falling down the marble stairs leading from the floor of the house to the basement of the Capitol. When the reading of the president's message closed Belden started for home, going by the west stairway. His foot caught and he plunged headlong down the steps. When picked up he was bleeding profusely from a deep gash in the forehead and another across the nose, which it was believed had broken the nose. He was carried to the committee room on accounts, where two doctors attended him. Belden was conscious, but not rational, and did not know his friends about him. From the hasty examination made by the doctors it was feared that concussion of the brain might be brought on. The wounds in the head were bound up and the injured man was taken in a carriage to the Arlington hotel.

Protectives Are Fighting McKenna.

Washington, Dec. 7.—President Echols and Secretary Palmer have issued a special address to the councils of the American Protective Association. The address says it is the duty of the association to protest to the president against Attorney General McKenna's elevation to the supreme court bench; asserts that the government departments are being "Romanized" and Romanists given more than half the offices in certain departments; declares against the president's latest extension of the civil service, and urges all members to write to their senators and representatives in opposition to the appropriation of any money at the present session of congress to sectarian purposes.

Peace in Guatemala.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The last mail brought reassuring news about Guatemala to its legation in Washington, the letters received stating that peace prevails throughout the country, there being no indication whatever of future revolutionary outbreaks. Capital punishment has not been applied to political prisoners, and contrary to reports circulated abroad by the agents of the suppressed uprising flogging or lashing are not used in the country. Business activity is reviving, and the currency, it is stated, will be re-established on a metallic basis on Jan. 1, 1898.

Real Hawaiians on Hand to Protest.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The delegation of native Hawaiians who have come to this country to present a protest against the ratification of the annexation treaty reached Washington yesterday. They are Colonel John Richardson, James H. Kaulia, William Auld and D. Kalaukalani. They are not ready to make any statement concerning their mission beyond the fact that they were here to present a protest, adding that they would be able to say more in a day or two.

Everybody Says So.

Cascarets Candy Cathartic, the most wonderful medical discovery of the age, pleasant and refreshing to the taste, act gently and positively on kidneys, liver and bowels, cleansing the entire system, dispel colds, cure headache, fever, habitual constipation and biliousness. Please buy and try a box of C. C. C. to-day; 10, 25, 50 cents. Sold and guaranteed to cure by all druggists.

TRUMPETER FRED.

By Captain CHARLES KING, U. S. A.

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[CONTINUED.]

CHAPTER IX.

LURKING FOES.

Church was over. The bugler had just sounded mess call, and the soldiers in their neat "undress" uniform were just getting in for dinner, when a man on a "cow pony"—one of those wiry, active little steeds so much in use around the cattle herd—came full speed into the garrison and threw himself from the saddle at Major Edwards' gate. It was the telegraph operator at the railway station. In his hands were two brown envelopes, and Major Edwards, as he stepped forward to meet him, saw in his face the telltale look of a bearer of bad news.

"I've no idea whose horse that is, major. There was a half dozen of 'em in front of a saloon there in town, and I jumped on the first I saw. Those have just come—one from Laramie, one from Omaha. I dropped everything at the office to fetch them to you."

Edwards tore the first one and then the other. The first read:

"Couriers in front of Captain Wallace reports large war parties along the Platte and some across, raiding the Sidney road. Four teamsters killed, scalped and mutilated three miles south of river. Bodies found. Warn back everybody attempting to go that way."

The second was from the office of the department commander himself:

"Indians in force south of Platte, on Sidney road. Colonel Gaines and Captain Cross have started, send couriers at once to recall them."

The major's face was dark with dismay.

"They have been gone nearly four hours," he exclaimed. "Even if I had swift riders ready, who could catch them in time?"

"I've been a trooper all my life, sir," came sudden answer. "Give me a horse and carbine and let me go."

The major might have known 'twas Sergeant Waller.

True to his word and arranging with the officers of the court martial to return in case his further testimony was required, Captain Charlton set forth at daybreak on Saturday, intending to push straight through to Red Cloud as fast as mules could drag or horses bear him. To the Niobrara crossing the road was hard and smooth when once they cleared the sandy wastes of the Platte bottom. He had a capital team, a light ambulance and a little squad of seasoned troopers to go with him as escort. It was a drive of nearly 90 miles, but he proposed resting his animals an hour at the Niobrara, another hour at sunset, feeding and watering carefully each time, and so keeping on to the old agency until he reached his troop late at night.

No danger was to be apprehended until the party got beyond the Rawhide and not very much until they were across the Niobrara, but Charlton and his half dozen troopers had been over each inch of the ground time and again, and very little did they dread the Sioux.

After midday the little party had halted at the ranch beside the spot where Blunt's detachment had made their bivouac so short a time before. Here were the ashes of their cook fires and the countless hoof prints of the horses. Here, too, was the trail in double file, leading away northward across the prairie, a short cut to the Red Cloud road. Charlton followed it with his keen eyes and noted with a smile how straight a line its young leader must have made for the "dip" in the grassy ridge a mile away, through which ran the hard, beaten track. Blunt prided himself on these little points of soldiership, as the captain well remembered, and when charged with guiding at the head of a column was pretty sure to fix his eyes on some distant landmark and steer for that, with little regard for what might be going on at the rear.

The ambulance mules, tethered about the tongue, were busily crunching their liberal measure of oats. Each cavalry horse, too, buried his nose deep in the shimmering pile his rider had carefully poured for him upon the dry side of the saddle blanket. The men were contentedly eating their hard tack and bacon and drinking their coffee from huge tin cups with the relish of old frontiersmen. One trooper, a few yards away from the prairie, kept vigilant watch. Pondering deeply over the strange and unaccountable charge that had been laid at his young trumpeter's door, the captain was slowly pacing down the bank, puffing away at the briar root pipe that was the constant companion of his scouting days. Suddenly he heard the sentry call, and, turning, saw him pointing to the ground at his feet.

"What is it, Horton?" he asked, going over toward him.

"Pony tracks, sir. The Indians have been nosing around here since our men left."

There were the prints of some half a dozen little, unshod hoofs dotting the sandy hollows in the low ground near the stream and easily traceable among the clumps of buffalo grass beyond. Charlton could see where they had gathered in one spot, as though their riders were then in consultation, and then scattered once more along the bank. Two hundred yards away stood the lonely log cabin, all that was left of what had been the ranch, and following the trail the captain presently found himself nearing it. Two tracks seemed to lead straight thither, and before he reached it were joined by several more. Close to the abandoned hut the ground was worn smooth and hard, yet in the hollows were accumulations of dust blown from the roadway up the stream. Around here the pony tracks were thick, and just within the gaping doorway were footprints in the dust, some of spurred boot heels and broad soles, one still more rudest of sioux moccasins. Through the solid log walls two small square windows had been cut and narrow slits for rifles, in the days when the occupants had frequent occasion to defend their prairie castle. The opening to the subterranean "keep" was yawning under the eastern wall, its wooden cover having long since been broken up for fuel. Charlton stood for a moment within the blackened and filthy doorway and glanced curiously around him.

Except for the new footprints it looked very much as it did when he had first taken occasion to inspect the interior, earlier in the summer. There was nothing left that any one could carry away, and he wondered why the Indians should have trembled themselves to dismount and prowl about. As Indian hates a house on general principles, and enters one only when he expects to make something by it. Those recent boot prints, nearly effaced by the moccasins, were doubtless those of some of Blunt's party.

Curiosity had prompted some time-killing trooper to stroll out here and take a look at the place. The ground was strewing in at the open doorway made a brilliant oblong square upon the earthen floor and lighted up the gloomy interior. The steps cut down to the dark "dugout" were crumbling away, and it was impossible to go within the door a few feet into the passage leading to the underground fortress, where as a final resort in an Indian siege the little garrison could take refuge. A lantern or a candle would show the way, but Charlton had neither. Taking out his match case, however, he bent down, struck a light and peered in. Somebody had left the same thing within the door day or two, for there were the stub ends of two matches just like his in the dust at the bottom of the steps, and these, too—yes, he lighted another match and

There was the print of cavalry boots.

studied it carefully—there was the print of cavalry boots going in and coming again. Whether it was his predecessor, he had more curiosity than the captain. Charlton had seen prints "stogged" forty before and did not care to waste time now.

CHAPTER X.

IN SUSPENSE.

Returning to the open sunshine, he made the circuit of the house, and on the north side stopped and studied with an interest he had not felt before. A stout post was still standing at that side, and to the post a cavalry horse had been tethered within two days and more than long enough to gnaw and trample the gravel all around it. Charlton was cavalryman enough to read in every sign that the steed had been most unwillingly detained. In evident impatience he had twisted twice and again around that stubborn bullet scarred stump, and the troop commander could almost see him, pawing vigorously, toss up his forefeet shake, and plunging about his hated but relentless jailer, and neighing loudly in hopes of calling back his departing friends. Charlton felt sure that as the troop rode away some one of the men had remained to mount little time.

A hundred yards across the prairie was the "double file" trail of the detachment, its straight line for the ridge, and here, only a little distance out, were the hoof prints of a mounted man coming and going. Even more interested now, the captain went some distance out across the prairie, and still he found them. Leaving the hut and following to overtake the troop, the horse had hastily taken the gallop. The prints settled that. But what struck Captain Charlton as strange was that the other tracks, those which were made by the same horse in coming to the hut, were still to be found far out toward the horizon. It was evident from that the rider had not turned back from the command until it had march some distance from the Niobrara; that he had not gone back to the bank why they had been in camp, as would he have done had he lost or left some thing behind, but had come here to th abandoned hovel southeast of the tra How, what did that mean? was the other thing the captain did not fail to note—that horse had cast a shoe.

Late in the afternoon when he reached the camp on White river that night—after midnight, as it proved—Charlton found the troop halted and up and anxiously awaiting him. When the horses had all been cared for and the two officers were alone around the tents, almost the first question asked by the captain was:

"Did you give any man permission to ride back after you left the Niobrara Friday morning?"

"No, sir," answered Blunt in some surprise. "I was asked, and every man was in his place when we made our first halt."

Long immediately after reveille on Sunday morning, a good hour before the sun was high enough to peep over the tall white crags to the east of the little camp, the two officers were out at the line, superintending the grooming of the horses. Fifty men were now present for duty, and 50 active steeds were tethered there at the picket rope, nipping at each other's noses or nibbling at the rope itself and pricking up their ears as the captain stopped to pat or speak to one after another of his pets.

Always particularly careful of his horses, Captain Charlton on this bright morning morning was noting especially the condition of their feet. Every one of those 200 hoofs was keenly scrutinized as he passed along the line. But there was nothing unusual in this. He never let a week go by without it.

"You seem to have had a number reshod within the last few hours, sergeant," he said to Graham as he stopped at the end of the line.

"Yes, sir, I locked them all over yesterday morning. Every shoe is snug and ready now for a week to go by out. Seven horses were reshod yesterday, and over 20 had the old shoes tacked on."

Grooming over, each trooper vaulted on to the bare back of his horse and rode in orderly column down to the running stream, and still Charlton stood there, silently watching his men and noting the condition of their steeds. Blunt was bustling about his duties, every now and then looking over at his soldiery captain. Something told him that the troop commander had made a discovery or two that had set him to thinking. He was even more silent than usual.

At 7 o'clock, after a refreshing dip in a pool under the willows close by hand, the two officers were seated on their camp stools and breakfasting at the lid of the mess chest. Before them to the brown buildings of the post, half a mile away, the bugles were sounding mess call, and the infantry people were waking up to the duties of the day. Down the valley, still farther to the east, the smoke was curling from the tiny fires among the Indian tepees, and scores of ponies were grazing out along the slopes, watched by little urchins in picturesque but dirty tatters. All was very still and peaceful. Even the bulking squaws and old men loafing about the agency storehouses were silent and patiently waiting for the coming of the clerk with his key of office.

One or two young braves rode by the camp, shrouded in their dark blue blankets and apparently careless of any change in the condition of affairs, yet never failing to note that there were 50 horses and soldiers ready for duty there in camp.

Their breakfast finished, Charlton said that he must go at once to the office of the post commander over in the garrison, and that he might be detained some hours. "It will be well to keep the men here, Blunt, for we may be needed any moment."

And as he was riding away with his orderly Charlton stopped to listen to what Sergeant Graham had to say.

"Sergeant Dawson and Private Donovan wanted particularly to go over to the post for a few hours this morning, and so did some of the others, but I told them that the captain's orders were we should all stay at camp; we were always wanted. They seemed quite satisfied, sir, but Dawson and Donovan, who made quite a point of it, and I said I would carry the request to the captain." And to Blunt's surprise, as well as that of Sergeant Graham, the captain rode off.

"Very well. They've both been doing hard work of late. Tell them to keep their eyes open for 'boots and saddles,' otherwise they may stay until noon. After dinner perhaps I will give others a chance to turn."

Fifteen minutes later Captain Charlton was in consultation with the post commander, and after guard mounting they returned to the colonel's house, where a tall infantry soldier, the provost sergeant, was awaiting him.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

OUTPUT OF TWO FORESTS.

The Almost Inconceivable Amount of Lumber Cut in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

"The Story of a Pine Board" is the title of an article by W. G. Bruce in St. Nicholas. Mr. Harwood says of the lumbering in Wisconsin and Minnesota:

About 4,160,000,000 feet of logs were cut in the season of 1895—that is to say, what is equivalent to 4,160,000,000 pieces of board 12 inches square and 1 inch think. I wonder if even the lumber men themselves, and the log cutters, and the manufacturers of lumber in the great mills, realize what an enormous amount of lumber this is. Why, it would build a house around the globe, with a main room ten feet high and a large attic, ceiling up the inside walls and roof with sweet, fragrant pine. It would put down a nacshed floor, and then, when the house was all complete, would have left enough lumber to build eight board fences on either side of the house 3½ feet high the whole distance around the globe. Besides all this there would be shingles enough for a good portion of the house, and then, if the mighty builder of such a house girdling house wanted to fit it up a little more neatly, there would be a large supply of lathe, and, I suppose, the plasterers could furnish him enough stucco and lime.

Or if he wanted to construct a roof shelter for all the people on the globe our mighty builder could accommodate them all, allowing to each man, woman and child a clear space of two square feet in which to stand, and still have lumber left over for 500,000,000 men with the same room in which to stand. And, to look at it in still another way, this same lumber would have material to construct a bicycle path of pine, a little over two feet wide, from the earth to the moon, for there would be nearly 800,000 miles of board a foot wide and an inch thick. In sawing this lumber up into the required length and thickness there was a great waste in sawdust—so great, indeed, that the sawdust pile would stand 113 feet high on a city square and 500 feet square at the base, and this is saying nothing about the vast amount of pieces of slabs which are split up into kindlings.

This enormous quantity of lumber represents merely the output of two forests—one in the northwestern part of the state of Wisconsin, and the other in the northern part of the state of Minnesota, and at the rate the logs are being cut up there will not be a piece of pine forest standing in all this vast region at the end of ten years unless something is done by the government to put a stop to the ravages.

MR. LAMAR PAID TWICE.

General Lee Tells a Story of the Justice's Absentmindedness.

General Lee tells this story of ex-Senator Lamar, while the latter was a member of the United States supreme court.

"He was in a heedless one day," said General Lee, "and, as was not unusual with him when not actively employed, was almost entirely oblivious of his surroundings. He was a deep thinker, you know. Well, he forgot to pay his fare. The driver rang his bell, and finally another passenger called his attention to it.

"'They're ringing for your fare, I think,' said the man to Judge Lamar, touching him on the knee.

"'Is that so?' asked the judge, starting up. 'I had forgotten all about it.' He then pulled out a dime piece from his pocket and selecting a dime dropped it into the box.

"The passenger who had observed his action, said to the judge as he resumed his seat: 'Didn't you make a mistake? The fare is 5 cents, I think.'

"'Why, so it is. Excuse me,' replied the jurist, and again making his way to the box he put in a nickel, after which he took his seat, confident that he had discharged all his obligations, as he had, indeed, and more.

"And so far as I know," continued General Lee, "he never realized his mistake. The best part of the story is that it is true. Goodby. I get off here."—Washington Star.

A Quaint Scotch Wedding Custom.

A quaint wedding custom still prevails in many of the little country towns and mining villages in Scotland. When a wedding is held, the contractor for the parties makes their guests pay in full for the eating, drinking and dancing facilities which are usually provided on such occasions. The practice still seems to survive even in Glasgow. A correspondent observed a notice posted in a Glasgow restaurant, "The best Glasgow thoroughfare—informing the public that a soldier would shortly enter into the bonds of wedlock, and that twopence would be charged for admission to the ceremony and an additional twopence imposed for witnessing the wedding feast. The practice seems to be peculiarly Scotch, but sixpence certainly seems the outside value for a marriage supper.—Westminster Gazette.

The Useless Man.

"Married life isn't what it is cracked up to be," remarked Mrs. Grimesleigh. "When I married Daniel, I thought it would be so handy to have a man about the house; but, Lor', that's all it amounted to. He's never at home when he's wanted for anything, and if he is he's tired or busy or something or other, and I have to go to work and do the thing myself. 'S far as I can see, men are only in the way when they are in the house and out of the way when they're wanted."—Boston Transcript.

Teeth Filled With Glass.

The latest use for glass is instead of gold as a material for stopping decayed teeth. The glass is perfectly safe, as it is far less conspicuous than the yellow metal. Of course it is not ordinary glass, but is prepared by some new method the process which renders it soft and malleable.

Glass, too, is being extensively used for crown work. It can be toughened so that there is no risk of its cracking, and the tone is said to be, beyond anything yet invented, perfect, soft and sonorous.

The color of this new kind of glass is a deep, rich green.—Philadelphia Record.

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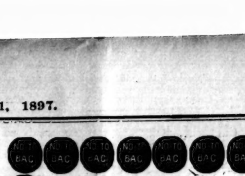

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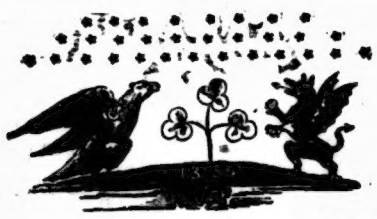

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Oct. 25, 1897.

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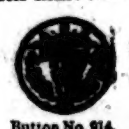

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